Two local papers editorialized today in support of Muncie Mayor Sharon McShurley who has made news recently for refusing federal stimulus dollars because of the strings attached:

Muncie Star Press: "OUR VIEW: McShurley right to hesitate on police grant money"

The billions of dollars the federal government is now throwing at state and local governments in the name of "stimulus" is obscene and almost too tempting to pass up. Almost. The mayor is right in considering what the long-term effect of any strings attached to the money might be.

Richmond Palladium-Item: "Fitting retort to stimulus silliness "

But the Muncie mayor is now concerned, as well she and her city should be, that this temporary financial fix only digs the city deeper into the fiscal hole it finds itself, while heightening its dependency on the federal government.

Mayors and local councils might similarly share concern that a federal stimulus fix does nothing to correct longer-standing parochial fiscal shortcomings or departmental staffing inefficiencies.

Beyond that, they might ask Washington to respect our system of federalism by reducing its spending largess, thus returning dollars to state and local governments or, better, beleaguered taxpayers to whom those dollars rightfully belong.

Several weeks ago, Congressman Pence gave $\ \underline{\text{the following speech}}\$ from the floor of the U.S. House, declaring that "

the stimulus is not working

•